

**Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Coalition**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 5, 2009**

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TARGET DATE
Welcome and introductions	Richard Leatherman, welcomed the members to coalition meeting. Everyone around the table introduced themselves.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Review and approval of Minutes	A hard copy of the minutes was provided to meeting participants. Minutes were passed with changes as noted by Moss Bliss.	Minutes were passed unanimously.	N/A	N/A
Old Business	Meeting site locations- the group is interested in holding meetings at agencies in addition to DSS. Any interested agencies should contact Brian Alexander.	Agencies needed to sign up as hosts for upcoming meetings.	Agencies should contact Brian Alexander if interested.	June 2009
Agency Updates And New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laura Willis provided information about the Senate's vote on McKinney Vento funds, which will change the definition of Homelessness. (See: <a href="http://www.naeh.org">www.naeh.org</a> for more info)</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Asheville Homeless Network has no more funds at this time.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homeward Bound's Becky Cope announced that a community performance project is now underway, with Richard Geere from Chicago helping. To learn more, contact Becky Cope at 258-1695</li> </ul>	Invitation to join HB's new project	Anyone in the community	Now through Feb, 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Census is seeking input from agencies and groups that can help ensure that typically underserved populations are accounted for in the upcoming census of 2010.</li> </ul>	Think about ways to ensure people experiencing homelessness can be counted.	Participate in Census planning process , Amy sawyer	Now through 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety Net may have ID cards for people. A representative from the Safety Net/Health Net group will be invited to the next meeting to discuss details.</li> </ul>	Invite rep. from safety net to next meeting.		June
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A TV crew from WLOS observed the meeting and took footage as part of a story about housing.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Focus Groups Breakout sessions	The Housing and Services groups discussed goals and action steps. Please see below for notes.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Meeting	Pisgah Legal Services, Charlotte St. 1	N/A	N/A	6/2@12:30

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<b>Action Group Notes: HOUSING GROUP</b>		
<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><u>Not accepting new clients:</u> The HomeBase program at On Track is not accepting new clients, neither is the Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 program.</p> <p><u>Housing Authority</u> does give preferences to individuals who are experiencing chronic homelessness. A referral letter can accompany their application to assist .</p> <p><u>Central List of Resources Needed:</u> There is a need for a centralized list of housing resources, 211 website, Pisgah Legal, Asheville Homeless Network all have postings. Can there be links from the city website? Socialserve.com is another housing resource.</p> <p><u>Community Attitude:</u> Discussed community attitude toward homelessness and how this group can increase positive PR such as positive letters to the paper.</p> <p><u>Possible Host Agencies:</u> ABCCM Steadfast House, Homeward Bound, On Track, VA Hospital, Pisgah Legal, WNCCHS. Other ideas: Police/Sheriff's dept, Mission Hospitals, Church of the Advocate, Housing Authority, A-Hope, Salvation Army</p>		
<b>Action Steps:</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>Time Line</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look into providing information for on resources that includes how many people the program serves so they can be contrasted with HMIS data for availability. Also, include specifics on how to apply.</li> <li>• Email homeless resource list and put up on the city website.</li> <li>• Utilize Coalition listserv to provide updates – encourage everyone to email listserv w/updates</li> <li>• Update housing resource list as a monthly newsletter</li> <li>• Invite a member of the Sheriff's office to Coalition meetings. ]The Board of Realtors now has an Asheville Property Management Division . Someone from the Housing Group will be speaking at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Group</li> <li>• Meridith Hammond will contact Amy Sawyer</li> <li>• Coalition members</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Group</li> <li>• Meridith Hammond will invite someone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBA</li> <li>• June</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBA</li> <li>• TBA</li> </ul>

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**Action Group Notes: DISCHARGE/MEDICAL Services Group**

**Discussion:**

Jail/ Prison: Discharge to homelessness. Barriers to obtaining employment and living wages can hinder housing options further. A goal of the discharge group is to have housing staff work with individuals discharging to link with housing, employment, and rehab. To succeed, people need a place to live, a job, and a support system.

- The VA plans to expand incarcerated veterans funding to support staffing.
- Further funding is needed for work placement and training initiatives like HVRP, VWIP, the Employment Security Commission
- Tax initiatives/incentives for employers might encourage them to hire people
- City subsidized bus fare for homeless could allow people to get to and from work
- Employer development through presentations, much like the Landlord Luncheon might help get the word out.